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Committee for Programme and Coordination
Fifty-fourth session
2-27 June 2014
Agenda item 7
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-fourth session

Draft report

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Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation
(*Item 3 (c)*)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its fifty-first session on the programme evaluation of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs: E/AC.51/2014/2

1. At its second meeting, on 2 June 2014, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its fifty-first session on the programme evaluation of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (E/AC.51/2014/2).

2. The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and representatives of OIOS and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed their appreciation for the report, noting that it contained useful and high-quality information, and acknowledged that all four recommendations had been implemented. A few delegations noted that while recommendations 1 and 2 had certain depth, that was not the case for recommendations 3 and 4. It was observed

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that no comment had been made regarding the impact of implementing the recommendations other than a reduction in publications.

4. With regard to recommendation 2, support was expressed for the efforts of the Department to successfully develop an implementation matrix to organize system-wide efforts to implement conference outcomes; the view was expressed that that initiative could be used as a best practice.

5. Concern was expressed that the Department should not establish programme priorities related to the post-2015 development agenda and follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development until Member States had taken decisions at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly. The point was also made that no priorities had been given to subprogrammes by Member States. A further question was raised regarding how the Secretary-General's bulletin on the Publications Board reflected General Assembly decisions on publications.

6. The view was also expressed by several delegations that the Department's overall reduction in its report titles and printed copies should not adversely affect Member States' access to information or access to reports in those countries with poor Internet access. Further, views were expressed that the paper-smart initiative had been approved only as a pilot and should not be seen as a means to increase the use of technology; however, there should be assurance that the target audience was being reached. The view was also expressed that the paper-smart concept was a good one since it helped to reduce, inter alia, the carbon footprint. One delegation questioned whether the Department's publications were reaching the youth audience in particular.

7. Some points were also raised regarding the recommendations made to the Department, including whether they were sufficiently substantive and to what extent the impact of their implementation could be measured. Further, attention was drawn to paragraph 7 of the report, on the fostering of collaboration and partnerships within the United Nations system and other partners and its link to document A/67/6 (Prog. 7), para. 7.4.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to entrust the Office of Internal Oversight Services to include in its future recommendations, where possible, indicators that make the impact/result of implementing such recommendations measurable.**